Appointment of TV News Readers

2332. **SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:**
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether appointment of TV News Readers is advertised in Newspapers or any other media is utilized for this purpose;

(b) whether some facilities are provided to TV News Readers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Advertisements for empanelment as Doordarshan's Casual News Readers are issued both on Doordarshan and in Newspapers.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. In addition to payment of prescribed fee, transport facility from residence to office during odd hours is provided to News Readers.

(d) Does not arise.

Qualifications for Appointment of TV News Readers

2333. **SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:**
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the qualifications prescribed for appointment of TV News Readers;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) the remuneration paid to the News Readers along with their working hours; and

(d) whether persons in service can also be appointed to such posts?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (d) The qualifications prescribed

for empanelment as casual News Readers in Doordarshan are given in the enclosed statement. (*See* below)

(c) The current fee structure of Casual News Readers is as follows:

S.No.	Bulletin	Fee paid per Bullentin
1.	Prime Time(8.30 & 9.00 PM)	Rs. 1,200/-
2.	Other Bulletins	Rs. 1,000/-
3.	Regional Bulletins	Rs. 800/-
4.	Headlines	Rs. 500/-
5.	Weather Reporting	Rs. 500/-
6.	Voice-overs	Rs. 500/-

(d) Yes, Sir. The persons already in service are also eligible for empanelment as Casual News Readers.

Statement

The essential qualifications, age, etc. prescribed for empanelment of casual newsreaders on Door-Darshan

Essential:

(i) Degree from a recognized University;

(ii) Proficiency in the language concerned;

(iii) Camera-friendly face, with a voice of a very good quality suited to broadcasting;

(iv) Sound Knowledge of current affairs;

(v) Acquaintance with names of important personalities/places in India and abroad; and

(vi) Citizen of India, staying in Delhi/or concerned city/Kendra where empanelement of such casual newsreaders is made.

Preferable:

(i) Professional background in Journalism;

(ii) Experience in Electronic Media (Television/Radio); and

(iii) Professional background in the fields of academics or related areas.

Desirable:

(i) Ability to interview people who matter in news;

(ii) Ability to write news stories and report events from the spots; and

(iii) Knowledge of both English and Hindi.

Age: Between 25—40 years.

Exorbitant charges by Cable Operators in Delhi

2334. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that cable operators in the National Capital Territory of Delhi have started charging exorbitant monthly rates for various channels;

(b) if so, the complete details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to conduct a survey in the NCT of Delhi to find out the charges of cable operators; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken against the cable operators who are charging exorbitant rates from the public?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The rates of subscription for cable network is purely a contractual affair between the subscriber and cable operators and is market driven. Government does not maintain any record of the rates charged by different cable operators, neither does it propose to conduct any survey on this or regulate the rates of subscription.

Delegations sent abroad for trade agreements

†2335. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that delegations connected with entertainment industry were sent to foreign countries for trade agreements during the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.